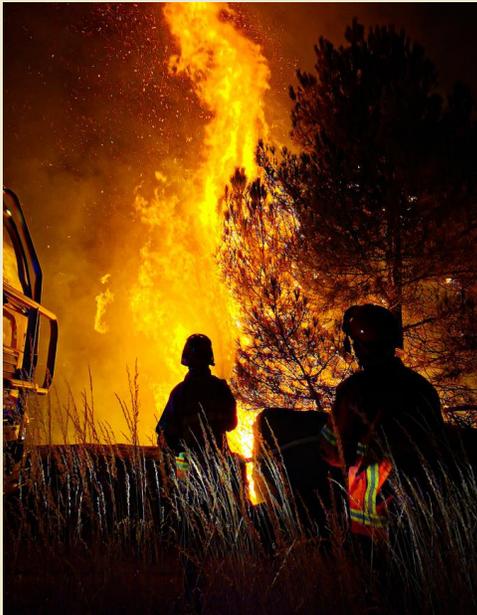# School Safety and Emergency Management

Monthly Minute: Wildfire Safety

September 2021

Monthly Minute is a newsletter providing insight and tips on potential threats and hazards brought to you by your regional school emergency management professionals in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education.

Over 1 million acres burned in Oregon last year, displacing tens of thousands. At least 18 school districts suffered damage or disruptions to their facilities and learning environments.

This was an historic occurrence, but one that reinforces the need for robust preparedness efforts. Planning for wildfires ahead of time will save lives, mitigate damage and permit a faster return to normal after the fires are extinguished.

Things to consider before, during, and after a wildfire:
- Establish partnerships with organizations that will provide aid and assistance in the event of a disaster. Reach out for support on memorandums of understanding.
- Clear brush and other flammables from your facilities to prevent wildfires from intruding.
- Establish primary and alternate evacuation routes and reunification sites— if one route is blocked you will need a contingency.
- Make sure your plans include specific support for people with access and functional needs or disabilities.
- Establish a robust communications plan that will notify parents of changing conditions.
- Routinely practice your emergency evacuation drills and exercise your plan for reunification.

Check out the links below for additional resources and support.

Contact Information

Scan the QR code below or click this link to connect with a regional school emergency management professional.

Join us on the **2nd Wednesday of every month at 9:00am** to get assistance with this or other emergency preparedness topics: ZOOM LINK!

Wildfire Resources

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools wildfire preparedness fact sheet.

Oregon Department of Forestry current wildfire information.

Oregon Emergency Management local contacts list.